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ABLE TOGETHER

an international quarterly newsletter serving gay and bisexual disabled and disability-aware abled men

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ABLE-TOGETHER

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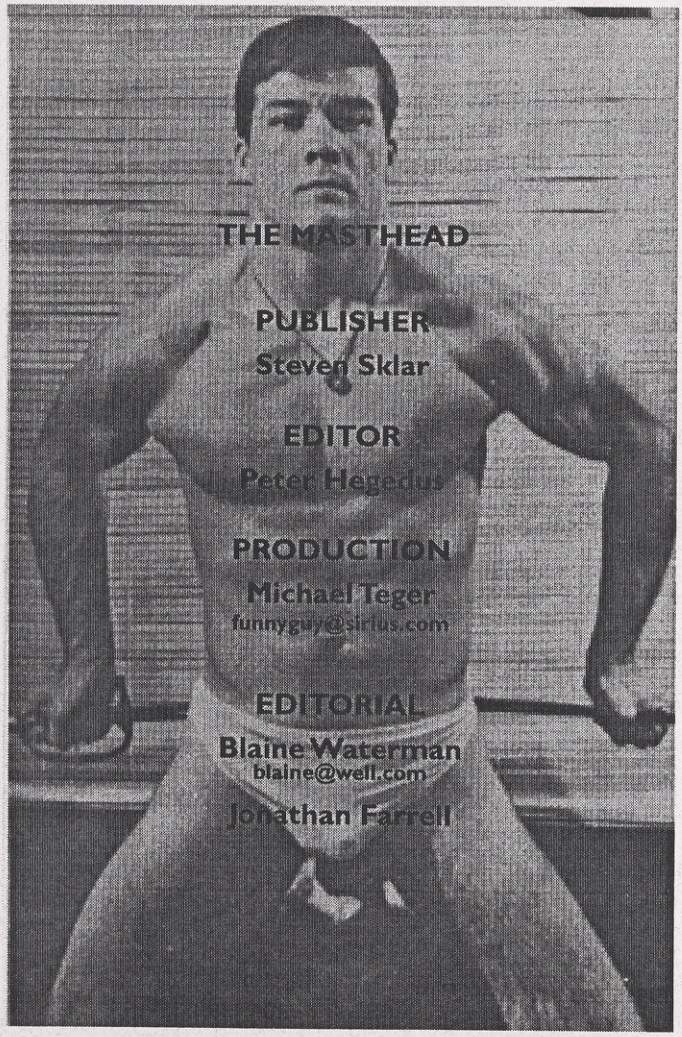


FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the beginning of ABLE-TOGETHER's 2nd year!

Regular editor Peter Hegedus is away in England until January, so in the interim I'm assuming some of his duties. After handling the voicemail and correspondence largely by myself for the past month, I have a much greater appreciation for how much work it takes to keep an all-volunteer publication like A-T going day to day. Peter and Steven (among others) put a lot of time into A-T during the last year, for which we are happy and thankful.

This month three articles look at some of the dynamics of abled/disabled relations (both personal and as a society), two from an abled man's perspective and one from a man with a disability. Peter writes us from London with reactions to A-T from some British disabled guys, and his reactions to their reactions. Oregon subscriber Tod Kromer shares his understanding of the basis of his attraction to disabled guys, and what it means to him. And Berkeley grad student Danny Kodmur has allowed us to reprint an editorial he originally wrote for another publication, a "wake-up call" on the sexuality of disabled gay people.

I'm happy we're publishing these honest looks at some aspects of the gay/disabled experience. I know myself, when I've met abled guys who seem hot for me, often feel a strange mix of exhilaration and suspicion: HE LIKES ME!—but why??? After facing so much rejection, sometimes we disabled guys just don't know what to make of imminent success, or how to handle it. We can get so used to loneliness and isolation that we put up artificial barriers to sexual fulfillment, or exaggerate real obstacles. For years I was extremely cautious, overly cautious, about getting into intimate situations with abled guys. Like some straight women with men, I feared my lack of physical strength could lead to maltreatment and abuse at the hands of stronger abled guys. It took a number of positive interactions before my caution became more realistic. If I'd been reading A-T I might've known better!

Blaine Waterman

Blaine Watrerman has also put Able-Together on-line with with his development of A-T's web page at http://www.well.com/user/blaine/abletog.html. *He can be reached via e-mail at* blaine@well.com.

A LETTER FROM LONDON

Dear Blaine,

I may be "on sabbatical" from San Francisco, but not from working for ABLE-TOGETHER; during my five months in the UK I hope to put A-T on the map over here and gain both publicity and a whole bunch of great UK subscribers and personal contact ads.

This is my interim report to you on what I have done, and learned to date. I have sent promotional packages to several UK national organizations for people with disabilities and the courtesy with which my telephone calls to them were received has encouraged me to hope that A-T will receive mention in their newsletters. And I have no doubt that we shall benefit from write-ups in the gay press, to which I have mailed press releases.

Will all this translate into more subscribers, more ads, more good and meaningful connection for ABLE-TOGETHER's population? Or will the people reached by this outreach campaign feel ambivalent about what A-T has to offer? Will their response be similar to that of one London architect, who is paraplegic, to the effect that "I just haven't found the time to sit down with it?" This man, who is charming and interesting and a delight to be with, surprised me by telling me he had reservations about the name "ABLE-TOGETHER", which he sees as "able-ist". I was surprised because we have had considerable positive feedback to the name in the US. But I knew exactly what he meant.

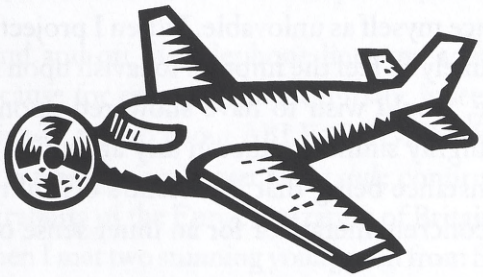
Does ABLE-TOGETHER mean NOT-ABLE-ALONE? Does it carry the implication that ABLE=GOOD, NOT-ABLE=NOT-GOOD? And who is doing the labelling of ABLE/NOT-ABLE? Does any such distinction exist "in reality", or merely in the mind of the labeller?

Another person I met who had similar feelings was the chair of REGARD, an organization of lesbians and gay men with disabilities. This man also articulated what he sees as a possible difference in attitudes between the UK and US populations. He told me that the disability movement in the UK is long-established and highly politicized and that one of its factions has become highly suspicious of involvement in the political movements of persons without disabilities, who are perceived to have some kind of "agenda". People who feel this way, of whom he is one, see society as casting them into the role of person-

with-disability and as trying to impose *its* normalization upon them in the form of things like prosthetic devices. In order to avoid the unpleasant feelings of being pressured to present himself in a way conforming to society's norms, he prefers to seek out the company of other "disabled" people only. Therefore the A-T premise is one which causes him some discomfort.

My response to this man was firstly to say that I believe I understand where he is coming from. Our conversation brought to my mind a play I had seen in London a few years back, performed by a company of people with disabilities, which dealt with just these issues. In the climax the woman with prosthetic arms shrugs them off and finds an altogether happier, and more "able" self-expression with the vestigial limbs with which she was born. To the horror of the careworker, whose own normalizing obsession is exposed for the neurotic projection it is when the other characters discover him to have been concealing from the world the fact that HE is - SHOCK! - a below-knee amputee! What the man from REGARD was telling me made so much sense that I found myself agreeing with him completely. Feeling that *of course* I, and ABLE-TOGETHER have nothing more to offer him than a reconfirmation of his disabled status. What was it that Forrest Gump's mom said to him about *if everyone wore braces?*

After attempting to communicate my understanding, my next response to the man from REGARD was to cite some statistical facts about ABLE-TOGETHER in the hope that I might persuade both of us that A-T does indeed offer something to someone who feels the way he does. I told him that we have two disabled men on the editorial staff. And that since perhaps 25% of A-T subscribers are what we call "disability-aware abled men", would it not follow that amongst the OTHER roughly 75% there is ample, not to say predominant scope for men with disabilities who largely want contact with other men with disabilities? As you know, Blaine, it is with some frequency that we hear of these contacts being made when people write in to tell us of them and sometimes we print these letters on the letters page.



All this leads me, as it did in my conversation with the man from REGARD, into an attempt to articulate ABLE-TOGETHER's agenda. It doesn't seem to me that we are some sort of Noah's Ark, pairing up disabled with abled men. I rather see A-T as a container in which any man for whom sexuality and disability are linked issues can safely express his feelings, hope to have them empathically received and reciprocated, and in this way come to be *more who he is* and *gain more satisfaction from his interpersonal encounters.* As I wrote in my editorial in the October, 1994 issue of the newsletter...

ABLE-TOGETHER attempts to*respect* differences of all kinds without judging. We all have so much to discover and to learn both about each other and about ourselves. We can help ourselves and each other along our paths by sharing our feelings and experiences honestly and fearlessly with each other, through private communication or by publication in these pages. And may we be TOGETHER ABLE to blow open this last, highly significant closet door!

The closet door of which I was thinking was that the category of person-with-disability *does not exclude* his potential for sexuality and sexual attractiveness. That there is no "despite..." intrinsic to a linkage between sexuality and disability.

A year later I see the category and issue of disability as just one arena in which intimate contact between two men may be either enhanced or endangered, depending on how the pair deals with what arises. My own agenda in this regard is in fact identical to my agenda in any event as a person: to try my best to stay attuned to what's going on for me, to communicate this to the person I am with and to try my hardest to feel into how this impacts him. And THEN to stay open for his response to impact me. If my friend is disabled, I want to keep in mind how my own brand of disability-awaredness may impact him and our relationship. I'm aware that I am likely *not to see him for who he in fact is* by instead seeing only my projection on to him of an"inner state" from deep within my own psyche.

In this inner state I am powerless to be who I am, to get myself across, because I experience myself as unlovable. When I project this onto my disabled friend, I then am likely to feel the impulse to lavish upon him all the love that I, in this inner state, would wish to have showered upon me. This projection process is in fact highly similar to that in **any** attraction between people - the variation in this instance being that my friend's disability is recognized in my unconscious as a concrete metaphor for an inner sense of powerlessness.

If I were a man with a disability, I doubt it would interest me to be used by some guy as a "projection screen" for working out his "inner child's" experience of a critical mother (or whatever has caused the inner-state fixation). If I had too many such experiences, not only of people coming on to me sexually, but also of weird projective vibes from, say, service-providers - remember the careworker in the play? - then I think I too would be tempted to yearn for that parallel world in which no one projects onto my disability because **no one is differently-abled!** If everyone wore braces. Understanding all this ever more fully is my personal agenda as acquaintance, friend, editor, maybe - who knows? - one day lover, partner of a man who happens to be what we in this world now call disabled. I believe that if I can communicate such understanding to my friend I will have succeeded in replacing the projection with the authentic intimacy of seeing who he truly is. The vibe will cease to be weird and will start to hum with the enjoyment of two men in empathic resonance.

I believe that I, and my relationships with disabled men, are now in better shape than when I did not understand my response to disability in the way I now believe I do. In my experience projection can really get in the way of having a satisfying interpersonal encounter; and gaining the ability to negotiate the relationship through the projections makes for a vast improvement in lived experience. And the careworker in the play is a man missing a part of a leg. He stands as a reminder that it is not only the abled amongst our number who may have projections in regard to disability. **We are human, therefore we project; in this we are all not-different!** Hence my agenda in my capacity as ABLE-TOGETHER's editor.

As you can see, I got a lot out of my conversation with the man from REGARD. I really appreciated his sticking with me through our lengthy discourse, and I got the sense that our encounter had meaning for him also. He said he would bring up the subject of ABLE-TOGETHER at their next meeting, and that he is open to publicizing A-T amongst their membership - although he does not, at the present time, see an A-T subscription as one of his own personal priorities.

Back on the ground and off the telephone lines my activities to date have given me some quiet cause for encouragement. Firstly, it seems people are out there: almost every friend I talk to about ABLE-TOGETHER says something like oh *there's a guy in a wheelchair who goes to the club;* confirmation of this, and incidentally of the desirability of the Europeanization of Britain, was provided on my first evening out when I met two stunning young men from Spain, one disabled,

one abled, in one of the pivotal cafe-bar venues in the new gay renaissance of central London's Old Compton Street. As well as being out there it seems that people are also liable to show some interest in A-T: heartened by this meeting with the two guys from Spain I left some A-T promotional flyers in the Clone Zone store just down the street - and a week later I had to replenish the stack. And independent assessment of likely consumer interest has now arrived in the shape of an order from Clone Zone's two London stores to stock the ABLE-TOGETHER newsletter!

Arriving at a West London venue with a friend also visiting from California who had decided to shrug off his wheelchair for the evening and view the crowd from his six-foot-plus using braces and crutches, the two of us found our entry barred by the doorman on the grounds that my friend's presence might prove "hazardous" because of the crowd, the steps, etc. I felt outraged at the unfairness and wanted to scream **"What about the boy in the wheelchair I keep being told comes here?"** *With great concern* I looked at my friend - and saw nothing but ease in his face as he patiently explained to the manager, who had just been summoned by the doorman, that he perfectly understands their concern but feels pretty confident about his ability to negotiate the steps and, once inside, the crowd. *Come on in then, Hopalong!* said the manager. Again I looked at my friend, and again my admiration for him grew as I saw him take this greeting not as an able-ist put-down, but in the spirit of welcoming acceptance in which it had, as I believe, been issued.

But was there also an unconscious able-ism, and was it to this that I was attuned? If we are to categorize the "*Hopalong*" comment as able-ist, and to extrapolate from this one instance the notion that my friend can expect more of the same in his travels about the UK, then this supports the man from REGARD's hypothesis that the UK population of gay and bisexual men with disabilities might be more sensitive to able-ism than you all in the US - maybe because there just **is** more able-ism in the UK. After all, this is the country whose leading satirical newspaper, *Private Eye*, has sought to poke fun at progressive local government in a cartoon reporting the provision of *"bus shelters for disabled gays"!* Or perhaps you might conclude that this all is what is called over here a storm *in a teacup* and is more a case of Peter being in a state of extreme sensitization to the issue of able-ism following my recent induction into it.

But as you know, Blaine, I so much love building hypotheses and drawing inferences. All the psychology; all the philosophy! I guess this is what I feel I have

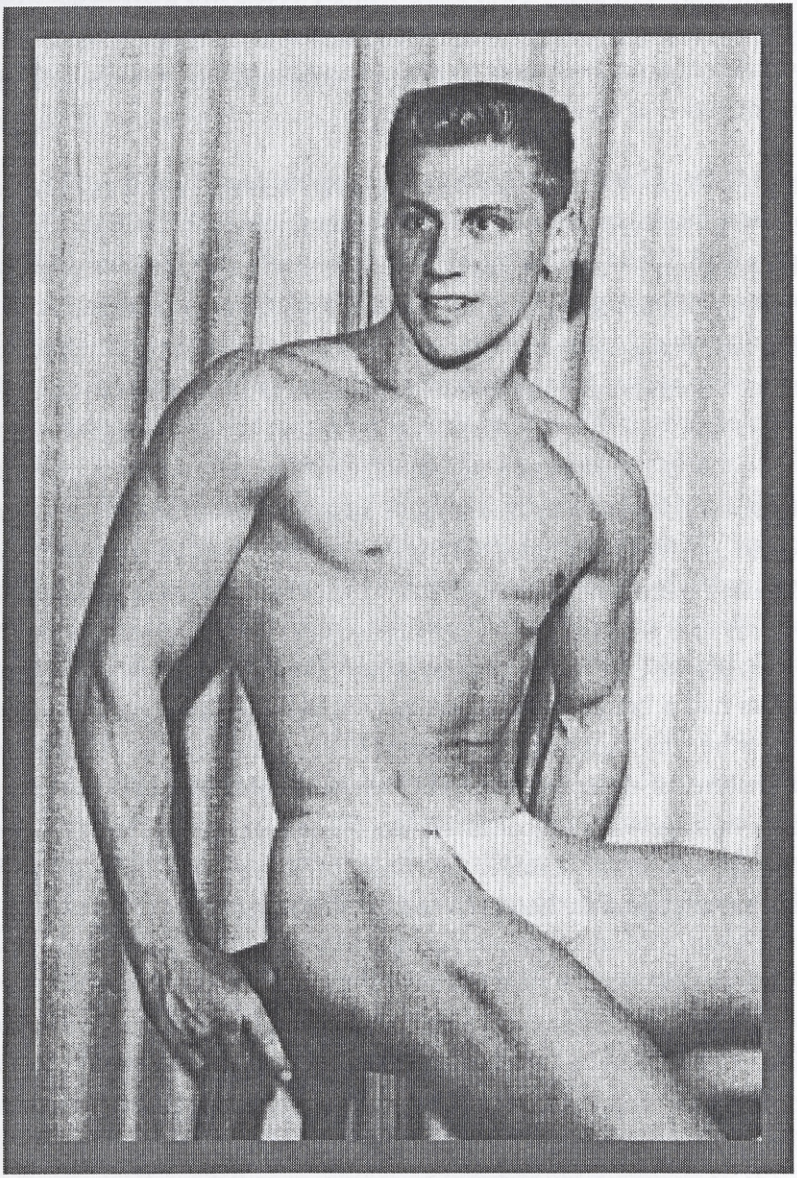
in common with the man from REGARD. I see myself as a person who notices things and then wants to understand why they should be as they are. I will close by telling you one more thing that I have noticed in regard to the UK gay scene: those gay/bisexual men with disabilities who are out in the bars and clubs appear to be all, or for the most part in their twenties, in marked contrast, as it seems to me, to our experience in the US. I leave you, and if you print this, A-T's readers to draw your own conclusions as to what, if anything, this says about the noticed, the not-noticed - or about me, the noticer!

As I re-read what I have written what comes up for me is how much this all ties in to all of the editorial material we have published in ABLE-TOGETHER in the past year; and I find I am moved to "channel" my former supervisor (a psychotherapist) by adding the comments I think he might make. He would say that much of what I have written here is premised by a psychology of critical suspicion - why are we doing what we are *doing?* - when I could just as well, and maybe more pertinently respond with simple appreciative acceptance premised by faith in the basic goodness of human beings - *whatever we're doing, we're undoubtedly doing the best we can, hoping only for good contact with other persons, and isn't it great?* This man would cite the *Hopalong* comment as an example, saying that I responded by *choosing* to activate the bad vibe and detect able-ism, and that my friend *chose* to experience the good vibe of welcome. He would say that the welcome is beyond dispute, the able-ism at least questionable. He would ask which of us had a better lived experience of the incident, he who experienced able-ism, or he who experienced welcome? He would say that choosing to tune into the channel of welcome *transmutes* whatever able-ism there may be in the heart of the manager into welcome. He would say that this was what Christ meant by *turning the other cheek.* I call it the magic of being able to change and create one's life, and am certainly happy to end on this note.

My best to Steven, Michael and Jonathan.

Warmly,

PETER



PUPPY DOGS BITE BACK

by Danny Kodmur

It amazes me that able-bodied people think they know the most difficult part of living with a disability. Whenever they see me struggling to open a door, they cluck sympathetically; whenever they see me making my way up a flight of stairs they will cheer me on, sometimes even audibly. I wish I could make them understand that the toughest part of having a disability is not practical considerations, but other people.

Many able-bodied people are fearful and uncomfortable around people with disabilities, but society teaches them to be ashamed of their discomfort, to keep it hidden. Afraid to confront their fears, they are equally hesitant to replace those fears with more positive feelings. Afraid to admit their hostility and terrified of the implications of expressing affection, many able-bodied people choose to do neither, preferring to keep disabled people at a superficial and patronizing distance.

Nowhere is this barrier more infuriating than in the area of sexuality. We who have disabilities are often denied a basic human right: to want romance, to yearn for passion, to express ourselves fully as emotional and sexual beings. Instead, we are often put in stereotypical boxes. We can be harmless puppy dogs who get pats on the head, wise counselors, best friends and siblings, people who bail their friends out with boyfriend problems, people to trust. Or we can be monsters, all grabbing limbs, manipulativeness, and raging hormones. I have gotten enough pats on the head and enough terrified looks from other people to know that these stereotypes are still at work shaping the perceptions and behavior of the able-bodied community.

I grew up thinking that I was unattractive, a 'special person' who would need a partner of unique sensitivity to recognize the wonderful guy behind my disability. Thanks to activists in the disabled community, I am now learning that acceptance must come not in spite of my disability, but because of it. Our community has made an effort to educate able-bodied people, to let them know that we can fall in love, marry, and have families 'just like everyone else.'

However, I am not like everyone else. I am gay, and the disabled-folks-are-sexually-normal-too publicity scheme tends to leave out me and mine. We spend so much time convincing people we can be straight that we forget that not everyone is. Gay people with disabilities are in a very deep and dark closet, because it is so difficult for us to feel and be independent. Our families tend to ignore our sexuality whatever its character, since acknowledging any kind of sexual identity means recognizing our power and respecting our autonomy, and for them we will always be children.

My closet tempts me to stay inside, ironically for the same reason that causes me so much bitter anguish. Because I am disabled, I am

considered harmless, and there can be a perverse sense of safety and security, a petty feeling of privilege, in that. Most strangers who meet me would not ascribe to me any sexuality at all, let alone something as threatening and evil as homosexuality. For this reason, I can strike up casual conversations with the most gorgeous men, and they will see before them only a friendly chatty guy in a wheelchair. Many of them are so busy processing the reality of my disability and my conversation that they have no time or energy to confront the possibility of flirtation. To them, I am just being a 'nice guy'; any lustful thoughts I keep to myself, for who would believe me?

This is how I have been able to converse comfortably, though rarely in depth, with people who would probably recoil in disgusted defensiveness if they knew I was gay. The question that disturbs me is this: Is it worth being thought harmless enough to interact safely with Olympic athletes and football players if that same harmlessness keeps me from being taken seriously by those I am truly interested in?? Is chatting without fear of harassment worth the pain of invisibility? Depends how cute the guy is.....

Of course, there is much more to expressing sexuality than flirting, dating, and having sex. Ideally, sexuality should be an arena in which we truly come to know and take seriously the power and essence of another person, but that will happen only if we can first be aware of the human possibilities around us, aware of those we have been ignoring or overlooking. The next time you talk to some disabled folks, realize that while you talk, they might be checking you out. Don't be afraid of that; think about it, and keep your options open. As for any straight guys I might have talked to or will be talking to, know that I am indeed being friendly and interested in what you have to say; I just might be enjoying our conversation more than you realize. Get used to it.

We disabled folks are sick of the pedestal, but we are also sick of other people's fear. I do not want any charity dates, though a casual fling or two would be nice; what I want is more open-minded people, willing to consider not just the possibility but the reality. Think about it. You don't have to take off your clothes, at least not right away, but at least open your eyes and your hearts.

[This article was originally published in Berkeley's Daily Californian newspaper]

Danny Kodmur is a grad student at UC Berkeley. He welcomes feedback and discussions on all aspects of sexuality and disability. You can write to him at:
2299 Piedmont Avenue #391, Berkeley CA 94720.
E-mail via dkodmur@csua.berkeley.edu.
Propositions, whether courtly or naughty, are also encouraged...

ABLE TOGETHER ON-LINE

If you have a personal computer, a modem, and an account with Internet access you have another way to get in touch with A-T.

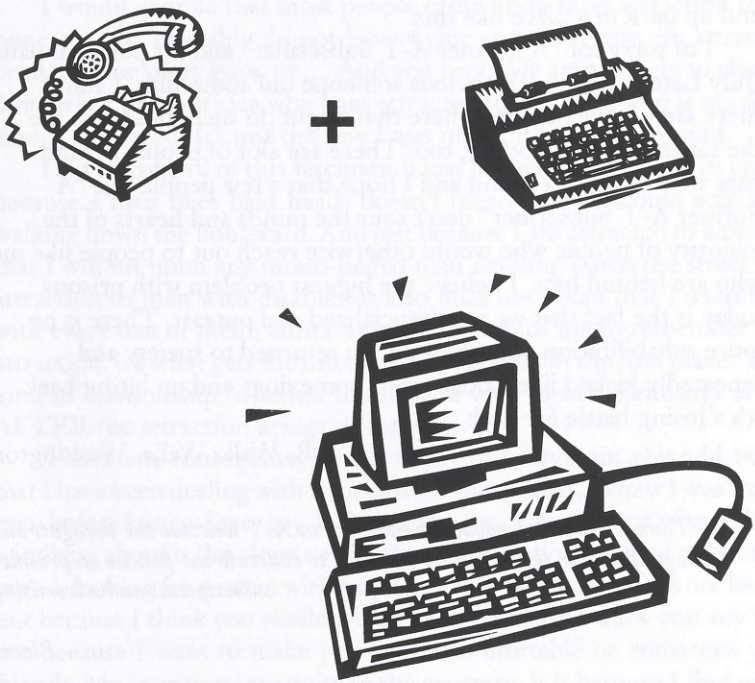
E-mail us at: blaine@well.com

If you have access to the World Wide Web on the 'net, visit A-T's home page,

http://www.well.com/user/blaine/abletog.html

Cruising the internet is an ideal medium for gay people with disabilities. Our disabilities are not an issue for us in cyberspace as they are in the "real" world. And if we're not in a position to be totally "out" there are ways to ensure our privacy while enjoying the benefits of queer electronic friendships. I encourage any of you with the financial resources: consider a PC/modem . It will open up whole new worlds for you.

CONCENTRATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



ABLE-TOGETHER LETTERS

A-T may print extracts from letters received unless specifically asked not to; writers will be identified by their initials, city and state, unless we are advised to the contrary.

Has it been a year already? Thanks for a good first year—your efforts are greatly appreciated by many of us.....I consider myself to be a somewhat irreverent dirty old man with a wry view of life. For what it is worth, I believe that AT is becoming slightly too politically correct and serious. Come on guys, let's lighten up and make it more sexy and fun. I have talked with others on this and they agree with me. This is for your consideration and the possible feedback of other members.

M.F., Sacramento

Thank you for producing an empowering, insightful, thoughtful, and useful newsletter/contact listings.

C.F., Philadelphia

First, let me thank you for allowing me to place an ad in A-T. Through your paper I've had the opportunity to meet a very dear friend. Someone who didn't let my surroundings be my judge. I've been judged already once and now I'm paying my dues to society. I'll be the first to admit I made a mistake or two....if anyone out there is so perfect, be the first to throw a stone at me. I accepted responsibility for my errors and I've made the best of this time to change and to better myself so when I do return to society I don't end up back in a place like this.

I'm sorry for "A Former A-T Subscriber" and his personal pain [July Letters page]. It's obvious someone did abuse him. I admit there are people people in here that might do such, but there are the same people in society, too. There are alot of people behind bars who do need a friend and I hope that a few people like "A Former A-T Subscriber" don't sour the minds and hearts of the majority of people who would otherwise reach out to people like me who are behind bars. I believe the biggest problem with prisons today is the fact that we are desocialized and outcast. There is no more rehabilitation and when we are returned to society and repeatedly kicked like a dog....well, some dogs end up biting back. It's a losing battle for both.

B.P., Walla Walla, Washington

Thanks for your feedback, Brian. We at A-T welcome the thoughts and feelings of all our readers as we continue to evaluate our policies on prisoner subscriptions and advertising

—Blaine

WHAT IS THE TURN ON?

by Tod Kromer

I would like to respond to a question in a recent letter to Able-Together. "What is the turn on?" Why do some men who place ads indicate a preference for men with specific disabilities, i.e. amputees, paras, quads, etc. I cannot possibly speak for all men who place such ads, but I would like to try to explain why **I** look for men with such specific disabilities.

I assume that just about everybody gets sexually aroused by certain physical features on a potential mate. Ask your friends what will get them excited and you might hear "a hairy chest on a big guy really turns me on" or "I am drawn to muscular men." There are too many human features that are attractive to others to catalog them here, but they all have one thing in common: they are **physical** attributes.

Think about this for a moment. A physical attribute can be anything on the body. Attributes can include height or weight, skin color or texture, the appearance, color, or feel of one's hair (or lack of it altogether), the general build or shape of the body. Those attributes are commonly discussed in the mainstream and it is generally accepted that you can be attracted to a person because of them. In fact, the media rely on a majority of people being attracted to certain "looks" in advertising models to bring attention to their products.

Like everyone else, there are certain attributes of a person's appearance that excite me as well. Like some of you, my heart pounds at the sight of a clean-shaven, handome "businessman" type. I also like men slightly shorter than my six foot, four inch frame and who have a slightly stocky or chunky build. But, unlike most of you, I am fascinated—drawn like a magnet to—a man who is missing a limb, or who is paralyzed. A person's physical disability is also an attribute, one I am drawn to, and to me is no different than a person's hair or eye color.

I would gamble that most people came upon their attraction to certain attributes honestly. You probably do not have a clue as to why you are attracted to blondes, or brunettes, or short guys, or..... And you probably aren't likely to change anytime soon. Similarly, I have no idea why I am attracted to someone who is missing a leg or two, or who is paralyzed. It's just the way I was made, it's part of my soul.

I am in control of this fascination just like everyone else is in charge of theirs. Just because a man likes bald heads doesn't mean that he would attack any hairless man walking down the boulevard. And just because I am attracted to amputees doesn't mean that I will hit upon any mono-peded man ambling down the street with crutches. My attraction to men with disabilities also does not mean that I would make best friends with every one of them, either. It is important for me to remember that this is only an attraction, it's what gets me interested in a person in the first place. The building of any kind of relationship, whether destined to be a casual friendship or a lifemate, comes **AFTER** the attraction brings us together.

This whole concept may be new to you and may seem a bit odd, but please remember that I have been dealing with it for close to thirty years. I knew I was attracted to paralyzed men before I knew I was gay. It has taken a lot of acceptance of myself to get to the point of talking about it (let alone writing to an internationally read publication). So if you see my ad, looking for contact with amputees or paralyzed men, it's not because I pity you, it's not because I think you would welcome me because I show you any bit of attention, it's not because I want to make you feel uncomfortable or embarrass you in front of my friends. My intentions are quite to the contrary; it is because I find you attractive.

Sexuality Booklet

"When I was newly injured,
sex seemed to be a taboo subject"

This innovative booklet, written for and by spinal cord injured gay/bisexual men, is directed both at the newly injured and the not-so-newly injured.

Price: £6 U.K.; £8.50 everywhere else (overseas airmail)
Order From: Spinal Injuries Association
76 St. James's Lane
London N10 3DF United Kingdom
Telephone: 0181-444-21-21

**DELAWARE, MARYLAND,
NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA**

A support group and organization is now forming for gay, lesbian and bisexual persons with disabilities.

For additional information please write to:
GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES,
352 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, #A-6,
AMBLER, PA 19002-4341

or call (215) 540 0189 before 10 pm eastern standard time.

AMPUTEE SUPPORT GROUP FOR GAY MEN

meeting in San Francisco, California

is organizing to affirm ourselves by dealing with issues including self-love, appearance, dating, revealing the non-visually-apparent disability to abled men, and rejection.

for information call (415) 255 3049

BULLETIN BOARD

SAN FRANCISCO SUPPORT GROUP

THERE IS A SUPPORT GROUP FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN WITH DISABILITIES AT

THE INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTER, 70 TENTH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103.

THE GROUP MEETS FRIDAYS BETWEEN 11.30 AND 1.00.

CALL HERB LEVINE AT
(415) 863 0581 FIRST FOR DETAILS

ABLE-TOGETHER offers courtesy listings on the Bulletin Board*; we ask in return that you help publicize A-T by keeping some of our flyers on-hand to distribute to members of your group.*

AUSTIN, TX SUPPORT GROUP STARTING

A-T SUBSCRIBER DAVID THOMPSON IS STARTING AN "ABLE-TOGETHER" GROUP FOR GAY MEN AND LESBIANS WITH DISABILITIES AT THE AUSTIN RESOURCE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING. THE GROUP WILL MEET ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL DAVID AT ARCIL, (512) 467-0744, EXT. 130

A GUIDE TO CONTACT AD LISTINGS

How to reply to a coded ad: put your letter in an envelope, seal it, and put the A-T code # of the advertiser you are replying to in the top right corner of the envelope; put this envelope, together with the correct reimbursement for forwarding, please, (see below), in another envelope, seal, address to A-T and mail! You may respond to as many coded ads as you wish, and put all the numbered envelopes in one larger envelope to mail to us.

We believe the best kind of ad is the one that gives the reader the clearest picture of who you are. We therefore encourage ad length (but reserve the right to edit) and accurate statements of personal statistics such as age and weight. You should bear in mind that our subscribers are likely to want to know whether you are disabled or abled, so please include this information, and try to be as detailed as you can about yourself and your way of being and presentation in the world, because it very greatly helps both you and potential responders if they can gain a reasonable picture you from the ad. ***We encourage changes and updates to ads!***

Although ABLE-TOGETHER strives without judgment to encourage honest self-expression we are aware that many of our subscribers may feel depersonalized and objectified in response to certain personal contact ad material. Because of the importance A-T attaches to the avoidance of objectification and depersonalization in interpersonal relations we may edit personal contact ads submitted to us which seem to us to contain sexually overly explicit or overly fetishistic material. *If you are dissatisfied with this policy we will cancel your subscription.*

DEADLINES: ABLE-TOGETHER needs your ad copy **before the 1st of the month of the issue the ad is to appear in.** New or renewed ads sent in after Oct. 1st, Jan. 1st, etc. are not guaranteed to appear in that month's issue. We will try, but no promises.

ABLE-TOGETHER does not profit from forwarding replies to coded contact ads, but we do ask that you send us full reimbursement for our postage costs in forwarding your reply to the advertiser:

- mostly, for US responses to US advertisers, this will be a 32¢ stamp, *but please note that heavier items cost more to send, and when in doubt, please check at the post office;*
- for overseas responders who do not have US stamps and wish to send a $1 bill, this will cover *three* replies;
- for US responses to Canada/Mexico please provide 50 cents worth of postage;
- all other countries $1.00

Remittance of forwarding costs may be made to ABLE-TOGETHER in valid US postage stamps, in currency, or by check or money order. All payments are sent to us at sender's risk. ABLE-TOGETHER does not accept responsibility for materials sent to us to be forwarded, and we reserve the right to destroy materials not accompanied by adequate reimbursement for forwarding costs.

CONTACT AD LISTINGS

PERSONAL CONTACTS INITIATED THROUGH ABLE-TOGETHER CONTACT AD LISTINGS ARE DONE SO ENTIRELY AT THE RISK AND ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO BE DOING, AND WITH THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE DOING IT WITH. IF YOU DECIDE TO BE SEXUAL WITH SOMEONE YOU ARE VERY STRONGLY URGED FIRST TO CALL YOUR LOCAL AIDS/STD HOTLINE FOR ADVICE.

ALASKA. Quiet, responsible, Christian, abled GWM seeks soul mate to explore love, life and spirituality. The simple pleasures of life, like gardening, being outside, reading, sex, cuddling and music, make me happy. I work as a librarian and lead a fairly orderly and frugal life, but one that includes lots of creativity and non-destructive spontaneity. My high energy level and childlike, joyous outlook allow me to brighten the lives of others and to make a positive difference in the world. Being an Aquarian, I prefer to let go and simply enjoy what life brings to me and not to form detailed opinions on every little aspect of life. I am 33, have soft brown hair (balding), bright blue eyes, beard, weigh 170 lbs and stand 5'11". If you are a non-smoker who likes music, fantasy novels, growing things, and life, let's talk. *Tracy Swaim, POB 210071, Auke Bay, AK 99821-0071.* Internet: tracys@muskox.alaska.edu

ARIZONA. GWM 37, 5'8", 220lbs, disabled with cerebral palsy, looking for friendship first, then maybe more later. Prefer you to be in age range 44-64. I will answer all who write. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #710.*

BALTIMORE - WASHINGTON AREA. GRAY'S OKAY! You: differently abled or abled, open to life and new experiences, optimistic, any age, size, shape, color (darker a plus!), drug-free, alcohol-addiction-free, financially self-supporting. Me: retired professional 60's, 6', 165 pounds, salt-and-pepper (more salt than pepper) hair, hirsute, goatee and moustache, some limp and limitations from arthritic knee. ISO friendship, maybe more. Interests include, but not limited to: transpersonal psychology (esp. reincarnation and ESP), African-American and Civil War history, Eastern Christian/esoteric spirituality, literature, reading, music from Bach to Yanni (high on Santana and oldies), cuddling, massage, affectionate creativity, maybe even light LTR w/right man. Am functional in Spanish and German. *Occupant, POB 4409, Brookland Station, Washington, DC 20017-0409.*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Hi! I'm Sam. I'm 30, bald, 5'5", medium build, 175 lbs. I was born with hypohydrotic ectodermal dysplasia (a condition characterized by

absence of sweat glands and sparse, thin hair). I'm a fulltime student in the health profession with some clinical experience in mental health, and starting pre-clinicals in physical dysfunctions. I'm discreet, caring, sensitive, affectionate, and was raised in a conservative religious background. My role as a student in the health profession and being closeted in a non gay-friendly environment easily burns me out. I'm looking for some social life that is relatively active, reciprocal, emotional, and hopefully helpful in "recharging" my zest in providing quality care for other people. I'd like to meet friendly white/Hispanic/Asian guys (20-40) who are expressive, sincere, willing to commit, HIV-, non-smokers, not into drugs, and hopefully Christian. I enjoy quiet evenings; classical/jazz/dance music; some volleyball, swimming; cuddling; table tennis, and any activity that is compensated by keeping my body temperature down since my body heats up easily. Thanks for reading my ad and hope to hear from you soon. **E-mail: sladion1@ccmail.llu.edu** *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1074*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA. Dominant white male in wheelchair for 25 years, Vietnam vet, 49 years old, 145 lbs, salt & pepper hair, live alone, very independent. I would like to meet abled male for dates, light BD games, friendship and possibly more. Write with photo to: *POB 1253, Downey, CA 90240.*

CALIFORNIA. Attractive GWM, 5'9", green eyes, chestnut-brown hair, with goatee, 165 pounds. My physical challenge is cerebral palsy affecting my legs. This challenge does not stop me from staying active. I ride a mountain bike around Golden Gate Park regularly. I exercise routinely and stay in good shape. I enjoy the arts and humanities and philosophy was my major in college. I work at a corporate job part-time while pursuing a career in writing. I aspire to become a literary artist, by completing a novel and having it published soon. Please write to *1550 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122.*

SEEKS FRIENDSHIP WITH LOVE. My name is David. I am a 30 yr old college boy, 5'10", 160 lbs. Hazel eyes, strong and healthy. Dark-brown hair and, am told, good looking. I love people and desire friendships, pen-pals and possible relationship. I am a warm, caring, out-going person who likes humor, fun-loving, happy-go-lucky type friends. I love children, nature and animals. I teach the Healing Arts and Spirituality. Hurt my back recently so in a chair for awhile. I do massage. I live near Palm Springs, Ca, and enjoy visitors. Male or female, any color, nationality and any age are welcome to reply. *David Glen, POB 815, Joshua Tree, CA 92252.*

SAN FRANCISCO. Outgoing, energetic, abled man, 35, 5'11", 175#, who enjoys adventure, romance, keeping busy and quiet times, nature and city life, friendship, would like to correspond with and meet disabled man who shares an active mind and a love of life. I'm a health

professional, enjoy travel, communication, and look forward to talking. *Steven, 4010 19th Street, SF, CA, 94114, or ph: (415) 621 8208.*

SAN DIEGO AREA. Shy GWM, post-polio with leg brace, younger looking 40's, likes nude fun and SM/BD games indoors and out. Not into the bar scene - enjoy quiet evenings at home, dinner out, travel, etc. Interested in meeting guys able or disabled for friendship, pen pals, safe sex, etc. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #137.*

CALIFORNIA. I am a single, caucasian, 42 year old, bisexual male. I am quadriplegic from a spinal cord injury that occurred 25 years ago. I am a graduate of UC Berkeley and have been employed as a social worker for the past 13 years. I enjoy reading, movies, dinners, conversation and walks among the trees. I am a gentle 6' tall and 190 lbs. I use a motorized wheelchair for mobility. My hair is brown, eyes blue, and I have a short beard. Friends say I'm attractive...but then friends often say nice, exaggerated things. I am most interested in fun and friendship at this point, but I'm always open to what may develop. I'm interested in men who are easy going, have a good sense of humor, care about, and are sensitive to others, but that are not saints and perhaps a little on the quietly "perverted" side, - and who might have an interest in my being sexually oral. I am quiet, considerate and do not abuse alcohol or drugs, and prefer you be similar. If interested, tell me what you like and what you are like. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #746.*

UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL, gay male, of Indian and black heritage, raised as a middle-class American, 67 years old, tho' my genes conspire to make me look, facially, barely 40, polio-disabled in childhood and now using an electric wheelchair to great advantage; always active, never indolent, sometime minister, counselor, and now working for our empowerment. I like the theater, musicals, motion pictures, parks, being at home, science, science fiction, and anything that strikes my fancy. My tastes in food are eclectic, with a leaning toward pastas, seafood and Chinese. I enjoy active people. Friendship is for me the only platform for all other interactions, especially including the sexual. I would welcome correspondence and interaction with other readers of ABLE-TOGETHER, disabled or abled. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #669.*

PENPAL-BUDDY. I am a Bi(G)WM, soon 60, 5'10", 160#, bald, cleanshaven, healthy, HIV negative, newly retired and closeted. I have resisted my desires for years because of professional and family considerations - but I am now ready to volunteer my talents and skills on a sexual level to abled and disabled caring, goodhearted, healthy men of all ages and all cultures who are inclined to want an inexperienced buddy once in a while. Want to teach me? I'm a good learner! *Dick, POB 907, Fremont, CA 94537-0907*

ADS

CA

CALIFORNIA. My name's Dale, I'm 35 years old, walking paraplegic (cane), HIV+, 5'8", 165 lbs, brown hair/eyes, mustache, hunky build, hairy chest and abdomen, masculine but sensitive, intelligent, seeking other masculine, sensitive, hairy men 40-50 with disabilities and a mustache who enjoy kissing, cuddling and slow, passionate lovemaking. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #839.*

HELLO GUYS! My name is Chris. I'm a 31 year old para in San Francisco hoping to find friends, fun and just maybe a long term relationship in these pages! I'm, 5'6", 130lbs, reddish blond and blue eyes. I enjoy country/western music, Roseanne, my art work, sunshine, rainy days in bed, evenings at home, laughter and smoking (oops!) my cigs. Hope to hear from you soon - and pictures much appreciated! If you're interested please call *ph. (415) 923 9213* or write me at *926 Fillmore #104, San Francisco, CA 94117,*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. HIV- GHM, 32, 5' 10", 160 lbs. with short black hair, dark eyes, goodlooking, masculine, educated, honest, stable. I enjoy camping, swimming, bike riding, photography, traveling, going to the ocean. I have old polio on the right leg, but I'm very active. I'm looking to meet abled, HIV- GHMs or GWMs 25-40 years old with similar interests for friendship and possible relationship. Please respond with letter and photo if possible. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1079*

CALIFORNIA. 44 y.o. post-polio GWM, 6' 1", 155 lbs., right leg 1" shorter. I am very active and do not let my limited disability slow me down or keep me from things I enjoy such as bicycling, swimming, camping or long walks.The things I have a passion for are getting lost in the sound of ocean waves, cuddling in front of a fireplace, live theater, picnics, breath stopping kisses, fusion jazz, C-W music, playing the piano, decorating the Christmas tree. I am looking for a long-term monogamous relationship with a sincere, very affectionate, honest abled or disabled man who has a good sense of humor and can be spontaneous. Age or looks not important. Penpals also welcomed. *Larry Rhea, 829 E. Hedges #103, Fresno, CA 93728 Phone: (209) 233-7843*

US/EUROPE/ALMOSTANYWHERE? This disabled-aware abled WJM, attractive 45, fit, HIV neg., very hairy, muscular 5'10", 158#, 42" chest, 32" waist, 14" arms, bald with shaved head, clean shaven with unshaven lower lip/sometimes goatee, warm, caring, interested, somewhat alternative, honest, straightforward, biopsychospiritually oriented graduate student presently based in San Francisco is open to disabled or abled man for good connection - intimate friendship - travel - dating - relationship - hearing what you are open to. I am currently struggling with all the possibilities opening up in my life following the recent loss of my partner of thirteen years and the soon-to-come completion of my postgraduate training. What to do, where to do it,

whom to do it with? Still grieving my partner, I see myself as a person who likes to be in relationship - definitely a "keeper" - and I want to get back on life's bicycle, tandem variety. I like much touch and affection; I'd like your face to light up when you see me; I'd like my body to feel alive to your touch; I'd like to feel cared for and understood by you; I'd like to do the same for you; I'd like all these things to happen for us more times than not; you'd like the same, are maybe reading this, willing to try...My fantasies of the moment: you have a trim, muscular body, good teeth, five-o'clock shadow, long sideburns and are in your twenties; my preferences of the moment: that you be affectionate, adventurous, athletic-within-ability, HIV neg., open to alternative/new age ideas, nonsmoking and caring; my expectations: not necessarily any of the foregoing. My hopes: that you are interested. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #252 or ph: (415) 431 8356.*

GAY NAVY VETERAN. Disabled gay Navy veteran wishes to correspond with penpals from all over the world - you won't be disappointed! Write today! *Robert C. Healy, 1086 Post Street #309, San Francisco, CA 94109, telephone: (415) 921 8950.*

SAN FRANCISCO. Sexy, disabled GWM seeks friendship and fun with other men 35 and under, abled or disabled. I'm 31, 5'7", 140 lbs, HIV neg., dark brown hair and eyes. I walk with crutches and have limited use of my hands. I'm into movies, travel, computers and reading. Please be attractive, friendly, HIV neg., and not heavy into drugs/drink. Photo appreciated and will get mine. Blaine. **E-mail: blaine@well.com** *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #013.*

EARTHY OUTDOORSMAN. Gay grandfather, disabled/retired silversmith, 5' 11", 200#, hairy and versatile. Love to fish, have a boat, travel trailer, ready to go; need you to come along. My home is handicapped accessible, lots of back yard. Home, a place for the quiet times in front of the fire. Seek companion, friend, soulmate, then maybe more. Small turns me on. *Irving POB 89, Yolo, CA 95697* **E-mail: irving@mother.com**

CALIFORNIA. Hi! This is Tim, working in entertainment and for global understanding. I'm 6'2", 30, brown hair/beard (very short), green eyes, 200#, slightly math-impaired. I'm looking for a chubby/heavyset guy with physical disability. I'm into a modern, natural environment, flexible but basically a New Age Democrat. Also into literature, music, dance, singing (I have a karaoke set), TV, radio, theatre, film, long strolls, laying around the house talking and falling asleep in each other's arms... *[sigh].* Prefer your physical disability be since birth, such as CP or spina bifida, but replies welcomed from all overweight men. Preferred age range 30's to 70's - old enough to remember the 60's, not old enough to remember WWI. I look forward to your letter and picture/video (returnable). *Tim A., 4204 Revere Place, Culver City, CA 90230.*

LIVING AT THE BEACH IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Catholic, conventional, GWM 37, br/bl, 5'8", 145 lbs, great looks. I'm an abled professional with an advanced degree. I hope to connect with an educated, emotionally and sexually available para, 25-40, with good looks, a passion for living and old-fashioned values. Photo would be nice. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #976.*

SAN FRANCISCO. Are you slender or medium build, masculine, any age or any height, preferably with facial hair (redheads and/or bald(ing) a plus), honest, down to earth, trustworthy, with an ambulatory, hearing or sight disability who is interested in a loving and mutually supportive relationship? I am a 50 yr. old balding, somewhat hairy GWM, "bear" type, 5' 7", 220 lbs., brown eyes w/ glasses, very long salt-and-pepper beard, HIV-, abled, warm, affectionate, open-hearted, into safe sex, cuddling and sleeping together. *Mike, 115 Rey St., San Francisco, CA 94134-2740.*

CALIFORNIA. I am a 62 year old paraplegic male, in wheelchair 15 years, hoping to find a friend or friends to love and maybe a long-term relationship. I am not into drugs or S & M. I am 5'8", 168 lbs, graying hair, brown eyes. I enjoy country/western music, classical and jazz. Be GWM/GBM 35 to 60 and liking to make love. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #983.*

CALIFORNIA. 40 year old abled black male, interested in meeting others, abled and disabled, who are interested in Bi activities or who are Bi-curious. *Barry, ph (310) 987 5397.*

COLORADO. Spanish/German male with CP, ambulatory, can get around, 46 years young, black hair, brown eyes, 5'3", 130 lbs, HIV-. I want to meet stable, healthy, talentedly-oral "Daddy-type" GWMs abled and disabled, 30-60 yrs. Please write with photo (returned upon request) and I will send you mine. *Luis Perez, 1955 Arapahoe Street #806, Denver, CO 80202-1834.*

COLORADO. GWM 60 years old, 6'4", 250 lbs, brown eyes, brown/gray hair. I have been deaf for 20 years but speak good English; my likes are my home, cooking, oil painting, hobbies, and music. I'm in search of someone who likes cuddling, lots of love, and who is HIV negative like I am. I do not have a preference regarding your race and age, but a hairy body and uncut are pluses. If interested, please write with photo. *Burt Oglesby, 343 Linda Vista, Fountain, CO 80817.*

DELAWARE. GWM-34, brown hair, blue eyes, 190 lbs., 5'11". Disabled, caring, honest, fun, loving. ISO-Gay muscle men, gay motorcycle men. And disabled persons who are caring, honest, loving, understanding, ages 30-40. LTR-minded. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T # 1022*

FLORIDA. Big bellied weightlifter - abled, 45 y.o., 5'6", 265#, smooth, tattooed, long blond hair, gray ring beard - seeks serious relationship. I'm versatile, creative. Prefer a simple life in the slow lane. I like books, music, the arts, old houses, young antiques, gardening, local politics. I've a weakness for bellies and beards, but by no means required. Will respond to all. *Jim B., 6822-22nd Avenue North #202, St. Petersburg, FL 33710.*

FLORIDA. Painter/sculptor, SBM 33, caring and generous positive-minded paraplegic, no chip on shoulder. I am fully capable of romance, pleasure and passion. I seek connection with open-minded couple or single for creative adventures, funloving friendships. Your love is important to me, not your race or religion. I look forward to contact with you by letter, phone or motel meetings. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #671.*

GAY AND GOD GO GOOD TOGETHER! Recently retired GWM, former social worker and ordained clergyman, full time RV-er, 64, 5'11", 215#, dark blond hair, glasses, non-smoker, non-drinker. Until recently I had an SSI-recipient young lover for eight years who decided he wanted to live the straight life. Now I am looking for a truly gay young man who can relate to an older man who wants to share all of life for a LTR. I will answer all letters. I have memberships in three RV resorts and three nationwide camping associations, a 32' travel trailer and GMC van and a modest retirement income, all of which will go to my companion when I am gone. I prefer someone open to the Christian faith and under 30, but all will be considered. Your photo appreciated but not required. *Ken Debus, POB 63, Lake Harbor, FL 33459.*

FLORIDA. Loyal friend, abled, masculine, educated, attractive, affectionate with gentle sense of humor and healthy lifestyle, 5'11", 175#, 48, br/blue, dress traditional style, enjoy cultural activities, travel, swim, outdoors, cooking, massage. I welcome contact with professional type disabled or abled 60+ gentleman who has similar attributes, is independent, happy and well adjusted, for quality friendship, caring travel companion, or possible relationship. National/international, discretion assured, photo returned. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #718.*

FLORIDA. A refugee from New England, I am at present involved as a volunteer with three amputee support groups in the Tampa - St. Pete - Clearwater area, having worked in this way for many years. I moved down here permanently from Maine. Yes... I miss the coast and the lobsters and stuff, but... I don't miss those wicked nor'easters and windstorms. I am anxious to contact ABLE-TOGETHER subscribers, to get to know one another and maybe someday get to meet and greet. I will answer all letters. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #689.*

HOPELESSLY ROMANTIC GWM 38, 6', 190lbs, br/br, mustache, abled, in search of GWM 20-48 disabled who walks with crutches. I enjoy dinners, movies, videos, the beach, amusement parks, quiet times and cuddling with that special person. I am an honest, caring trustworthy male who is interested in a monogamous relationship; I am very affectionate, loving and respectful. I live alone and close to the airport, and would welcome your visit. *Michael Kirnard, 2974 Wildhorse Road, Orlando, FL 32822, ph: (407) 249 0574.*

FLORIDA. GWM 44, 5' 6", 135 lbs., brown hair and eyes, non-smoker, HIV negative. Very independent, use wheelchair and drive for transportation. I love dining out, enjoy movies, music, reading, swimming, bowling. Attend college. I am very open to learning new things and simply like having fun. I seek a 40 to 50 year old masculine, well-developed/solid white male with similar interests and the same qualities for friendship and possible monogamous relationship. No drugs/S&M. A photo would be nice. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #911*

FLORIDA. GWM 60, 6', 185 lbs. I have multiple sclerosis. I am working and live alone. I'm shy, clean and safe, small-endowed. Would like to hear from friends and penpals. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #132.*

TAMPA, FL METRO AREA. GWM 47, abled, 6', hazel eyes, auburn/graying hair, stocky build, very well educated. I enjoy cultural and historical activities, museums and travel. I am a non-smoker, light drinker, no drugs! Good personality - honest, caring, trustworthy and discreet. I am looking for similar qualities in a man older than myself, someone loving and respectful, wheelchair/crutches/polio a plus. Will exchange photos. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #871.*

GEORGIA. GWM 40, 230 lbs, brown/green, abled, in search of a/k amp. man for friendship and possible relationship. Please send letter and photo to *KWS, 302 Kay Drive, Dalton, GA 30721, ph. (706) 259 6423.*

ATLANTA ROMANTIC LOOKING FOR PASSION. I'm a GWM, 5'7", 190#, EXTREMELY romantic individual with a non-visually-apparent disability. I'm 34 years young. I have long, naturally curly hair that cascades past my shoulder blades, and aqua blue eyes. I'm spiritually grounded, loving, caring, compassionate, understanding. A human being with a zest for life and all it has to offer. I have no problems with disabilities of any kind. Race is unimportant. As long as you're from the human race. I'm looking for a person with these same qualities to become my lifemate. I am a highly committed individual and expect the same. I prefer men who are 20-45. I'm turned on by long hair and white or blue jeans and white cotton briefs, and am open to different forms of sexual expression as long as pain isn't

involved. I'm into the performing arts, all kinds of music with a preference for country and jazz, long walks on the beach, cuddling under the stars, and bringing happiness to others. I love to laugh and love. I live alone and would be open to visitors to our "Olympic City". I am a certified massage therapist and enjoy using my hands. I'm a gourmet chef and accomplished homemaker. You can send a picture if you like but I care more about what you look like on the inside than the outside. I would be willing to relocate for the right person. Are you him? PLEASE WRITE: *Alden Harris, 429 N. Highland Ave. N. E., Suite #6, Atlanta, GA 30307-1455.*

GEORGIA. GWM 51, brown, blue, have polio of right leg, walk with a limp, cane and an attitude; interests in leather (top) and feet; orally sexual only and love to play all night long. I am looking for a younger man, construction or business type, no jocks. I am retired on a fixed income, but will welcome anyone coming to Atlanta. I am up very late at night and please call me on *ph. (404) 787 5864* or *replies with correct postage please to A-T #091.*

HAWAII. I'm 41, 6'2", AK stump amputee. I prefer crutches, so do not wear a limb. My older partner of fifteen years who died a year ago was attracted to my disability, and I'm looking for a permanent relationship with a generous guy who's turned on by my stump. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #790.*

OAHU, HAWAII. Aloha! My name is Ken, and I would like to meet any ABLE-TOGETHER subscribers that may be coming down to our beautiful tropical islands. I am an abled gay man, healthy and in good shape for a guy just turned 50. I am six feet tall and weigh 180 lbs. I never tire of the beach, and love to share the island lifestyle with men from the big cold island of North America. Hope to hear from friendly men out there!*Ken Smith, 841A Kainui Drive, Kailua, HI 96734.*

ILLINOIS. Hi! My name is Russ Pyle and I'm a quadriplegic. I have been for the last 14 years. I am a GWM, HIV-, and am a young looking 50 years old. I am looking for someone preferably in the Central Illinois area who is between 25 and 40 years old. I am a very generous and open person. Prefer you be gay/bi, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed a plus. If you are interested in writing to me, let's see what might develop. Please send a picture with your letter if you can. I will answer all replies, and any location. Hope to hear from you soon!! *Russ Pyle, 1580 Highland Place, Decatur, IL 62526.*

ILLINOIS. 25 yrs, 5'10", 140 lbs, bl/bl, smooth body. I am a top wheelchair basketball and top 5 tennis player. I'm an incomplete quad. - have full sensation and mobility on right side and partial on left and can walk with crutches. I'm well-built and very cute and looking for other athletic masculine men (preferred age range 30-45 but open). If

you are healthy, attractive and love sports and would like to meet a very goodlooking and incompletely disabled athlete, please get in touch. Photo, return address and 'phone # appreciated if you write. *Robby, 700 S. Lewis Lane #1803, Carbondale, IL 62901, ph (618) 549 7049.*

ILLINOIS. GWM, abled, is attracted to and interested in meeting guys who wear leg braces, also guys wearing teeth braces; would also like to hear from guys with similar interests. *Terry Troutman, POB 1107, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.*

MARYLAND. GWM, 37, paraplegic, 5'11", 140lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes. Very good upper body strength. My interests include music, movies, literature, sports, and having good times. I would like to meet disabled or non-disabled GWMs, 18 to 45 years old. Interested in getting together for friendship with the possibility of a sexual and emotional relationship. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #470.*

MARYLAND. GWM, mature, hairy, 6ft, blue/brown-gray, 185/190lbs. Life-long attraction to GMs with one leg shorter than the other or club foot or limp. I am truthful, loving, monogamous and seek same in mate for a permanent relationship. I like antiques, classical music & opera, cooking, travel, loving home in beautiful environment. My handicap is a very short, uncut penis with small, mis-mated balls. Hope that our handicaps can be combined for mutual understanding and more. Please write to: *John, 1110 Fidler Lane #801, Silver Spring, MD 20910, ph. (301) 589 1873.*

HEAVENLY MAN WITH EARTHLY PLEASURES. GWM 30, 6'1", in search of wheelchaired GWM 25-45 from all over USA for friendship and possible relationship. I like alternative rock, jazz and classical music, museums, conversations over coffee, politics, candlelight dinners, sports and movies. Looks are not important to me, but honesty, openness and candor are a must. Please do not be bisexual, married, HIV, or into S&M or drugs. I welcome responses nationwide; please respond with letter, mailing address and telephone number - photo nice, but not necessary. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #653.*

MARYLAND. Reasonably attractive Italian-Irish male, very healthy 55 (look 45), 5'10", 185 lbs, 38" chest, 36" waist, hazel eyes, brown hair, liberal Republican, dissenting Papist (Dignity), in transition from marriage, looking for companionship. I am an incomplete quadriplegic, able to stand and transfer, all working plumbing, and hoping for more recovery. I like Italian men, but am open to all; I am looking for a facilitator and comforter, abled or disabled. I like classical music, visual arts, politics, theater, museums; I would love one day to tour European cathedrals and hear their organs - perhaps with you? *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #894.*

MARYLAND. John, recently wheelchair bound with MS, goodlooking GWM 32, blond hair, hazel eyes, 5'11", 175 lbs, HIV-, swimmer's build, very active both sexually and physically. I enjoy swimming, working out at the gym and going to night spots, clubs and staying home with the right person, and I love to travel and sunbathe. I'm in search of a top man 18-45 with similar interests, with/without a handicap, strong and preferably muscular, ready for adventure, friendship, possible ltr. Please write with photo. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #737.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. GWM 44, minor vision problem but a real man. I would like to hear from others. Please write and send photo and I will do the same. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #796.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. GWM 36, with cerebral palsy. Manual wheelchair user. Very independent, articulate, intelligent, respectful, laid-back and lovable. I love music from classical to rock, films, dining out, drawing, conversation, being with friends, the outdoors, honesty, laughter and affection. I am commitment oriented and monogamous by nature. Am looking for correspondents, friendships and possible long term relationship. If you have similar interests and a passion for life, I'd love to hear from you. - Stephen. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #781.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. My name is Phil. I'm an abled gay man, 38 years old, 5'11", 210#, brown hair/beard, and live in the Boston area. I own two successful businesses, am financially quite secure, enjoy traveling when I can find the time - my favorite destination is Las Vegas! I enjoy my extensive coin collections, watching the same movies over and over, some science fiction, tropical fish keeping, dining out (when I get tired of my lousy cooking!), a good glass of wine and cuddling on the sofa. I am college educated and have a commercial pilot's license. I'm very attracted to disabled gay men, preferably younger than I, who have a good sense of humor and who like to cuddle! Even though I'm more attracted to a person's personality, I do find certain disabled men very appealing! I desire a long term relationship, not just sex - it's nice but not that important to me. If that's you too, please drop me a note. I promise a prompt and honest reply to every letter I might receive. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #731.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. GWM 38, 6'3", 235 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, beefy paraplegic, navy veteran, CEO of own company. I love travel, warm climates, hugging, cuddling. I like watching sports - gymnastics, swimming, tennis and figure-skating. Looking for a lifemate. *Ron, 25 Quisset Brook Road, Milton, MA 02186.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. Artist/teacher in Boston, 55, very disabled-aware abled, thoughtful, sensitive, many interests, travel throughout

New England, looking to correspond/exchange photographs with all and any interested men. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #368.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. I'm a recent para (T-10), finding it difficult to adjust. I wheel along the ocean, garden, stamp collect, watch classic movies, read and try to laugh. I'm an athletic 45, 5'7", 148 lbs, with brown hair and eyes, olive skin, Italian looks. I am looking for gay companionship of all kinds - would love some penpals, friends, and maybe ... *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #907.*

MICHIGAN/CALIFORNIA. Alternative, progressive, independent GWM 34, 5'8", 140#, long brown hair and eyes, with offbeat good looks and keen sense of humor. I've been in a wheelchair since I was 21 from a car accident. I'm well-adjusted and well-traveled and with diversified interests. My search is for a confident, artistic, abled GWM 20-40 who is looking for a love connection. I have a great circle of friends but something is missing. I commute from LA back to Michigan regularly. If interested write me with a recent photo of yourself; I'm looking forward to all responses. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #883.*

MICHIGAN. GWM, 6', 185 lbs, interested in hearing from (especially leg-) amputees - also from guys wearing dentures. I would also welcome hearing from men with like interests. *Please write: POB 186, East Tawas, MI 48730.*

SOUTH WEST MICHIGAN. GWM, retired 57 year old, 5'10", 145lbs, old polio with leg brace. I live alone and would enjoy writing to and possibly meeting others who don't mind those of us that are in some way different. I would be happy to exchange photos. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #393.*

MINNESOTA. GWM, 36, attractive, red hair and a trimmed beard. I am physically challenged due to a 1988 car wreck. I walk with a cane, or use a chair. Currently, I am a student. I enjoy jazz, blues, and soft rock. I like movies, trips, and good conversation. I am looking for a patient and sincere guy, one with an understanding of disability. HIV negative. I am seeking new friends, disabled or able-bodied. *Bob Barr, 180 Wayzata Street #507, Saint Paul, MN 55117.*

MINNESOTA. I am a GWM, 49 years old, weigh about 155 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair and mustache. I have a neuro-muscular disability which is not too severe. I use a manual wheelchair but can walk a little. Overall I am quite healthy and a non-smoker. I am a research scientist, live independently and drive a van. I enjoy traveling and am looking for others with a similar interest. *Bill , ph: (612) 871 3630 before 10pm.*

MINNESOTA. 43 year old quad. of 16 years, 5'9" and 155 lbs. My interests include football games, auto racing, body building, x-rated movies. I am looking to hear from others, abled and disabled, couples and all ages welcome to respond. Send short letter with long photo and I will respond similarly! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #804.*

SOUTH WEST MINNESOTA. GWM, 33 years old, nonsmoker/drugs, 200#, 6' 71/2", brown hair. Am a down to earth guy who cares about another's needs, mind, body, and soul. Love to share life with others, enjoy gardening, antiques, reading, movies, music, cooking, sunsets and sunrises, moonlight strolls, cuddling. Penpals welcomed, and all replies answered. Photos appreciated. Write soon! *J. W. 460 Emory Street, Tracy, MN 56175-1132.*

MINNESOTA. GWM 48, 5'10", 180#, br/hz, looking for life partner with whom to share mutual achievements, interests and lifestyle amenities. I'm a successful professional post-polio wheelchair user in a north central community, very loving, very committed in relationships, open minded and with few hangups. I'm interested in a GWM 35-45, currently abled, HIV-, secure, together, with a great sense of humor, affectionate, and who is successful in his life goals. Interest in outdoor as well as indoor life a plus. Sincere letters will receive replies (photo nice but not initially necessary). *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #791.*

MISSISSIPPI. GWM, 59, 5'11", 210#, gr/br hair and beard, HIV-, use crutches or cane, seeking GWM, 35+ for friendship/relationship. Hairy body, beard and/or stache a plus. I am a smoker, moderate drinker, no drugs. I am a low vision person, so please consider that when writing. I enjoy almost all music except Rock, like camping, boating, swimming, watching some TV, travel when possible, small parties, dining in as well as dining out, also the theater, arts and museums. I consider myself to be a computer novice but I do enjoy working with the computer and learning new things. I also enjoy some of the gay BB's in my local area. I am a warm and considerate person who enjoys cuddling, kissing and making love, holding and being held. I'm not into any of the B&D or S&M scenes and do not like pain. *Sam Tolar, 1521 W. Highland Drive #H-4, Jackson, MS 39204-2117.*

MISSOURI or SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA. GWM 33, 5'10", 155 lbs, light brown hair, blue eyes, HIV+, wearing a brace on left leg. I am living in Missouri now, but relocating Fall '95 to San Francisco where I lived from 1982-1991. I am looking for emotionally enriching relationships - friends, lover - with sincere gay men 30-50, abled or disabled. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #904.*

MISSOURI. GWM, 5'8", 170 lbs, 41 years old, also blind. I am sincere, compassionate and caring, and seeking other gay men who

are either blind or who are sighted and accepting of blind people. My interests include walks, eating out, amusement park rides, or just staying at home watching TV or listening to music. I am open minded and enjoy answering any questions concerning blindness, so if you are sighted please do not be afraid. Looking forward to hearing from you. *Don, ph (314) 874 6010.*

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY. Partially disabled, ambulatory, heavy GWM looking for lover. Me: 47, 6', 250 lbs, brown eyes, brown hair, beard, HIV -. Like to laugh, cuddle and snuggle. Like books, bookstores, classical music, restaurants, movies. You: GWM 35-50, slim to muscular, with similar likes. Letter and photo get mine. Be strong for me. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #613.*

NEW YORK. GWM 41, abled, goodlooking, short and husky, looking to make new friends, sex partners and maybe more. I am addicted to mystery novels and video porn. Please be smart, liberal and not too serious. You can be anywhere as I travel often and widely for work. Be abled or disabled - my dearest friend is a GWM quad. *Mark Simon, 1324 Second Ave. #4C, New York, NY 10021, ph (212) 737 6685.*

NEW YORK. GWM 57, 5'11", 160 lbs, HIV neg., AK amp., graying light-brown hair, blue eyes. Not only disabled because of amp. but also because of hemophilia. Mostly use power wheelchair. I have a live-in PCA who is straight. I am an artisan and most of my living comes from the making and selling of miniature furniture (dolls houses) to museums. I also paint and am a would-be sculptor. I am looking for a GWM, HIV neg., a life partner, lover and friend, of cheerful disposition - I am like that as soon as I open my eyes in the morning. (Dis)ability, looks, age, are all unimportant, what is important is our love for each other & love for miniatures and for the finer things in life, like classical/semi-classical music, with some c & w, good food (I like to cook), art, books, movies, and anything that's gay. Please do be a good conversationalist. Please don't be kinky - I'm not into pain, having had enough of it. I need someone that will not only be a life partner but will also share in my work. Will answer all who write. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #582.*

NEW YORK, BRONX/TRI-STATE. Disabled super heavy set gay white/hispanic male 42, 5'11", 415#, dark hair and eyes, balding and glasses, limited mobility. I enjoy TV, VHS, movies, video-games and music. I am looking for local buddies with similar interests. Photo & phone with your first letter appreciated. Let's see where this takes us! *Eddy, POB 651, Bronx, NY 10466.*

YOUR PHOTO GETS MINE. Goodlooking, well-built, GWM, 46, 5'8", 150 lbs, green eyes, salt and pepper crew cut, into weight-lifting, motorcycles, leather, videos, photos and my very good

imagination! Am attracted to men with one or more amputations and would love to hear from one such, also from someone else with similar interests. Looking for correspondence and maybe more. Any takers? *Alan Johnson, 487 East Main Street #158, Mount Kisco, NY 10549-0110.*

I LOVE TO SHARE NEW YORK WITH VISITORS. 47 yo WM, physician able-bodied, loss of vision in left eye since car accident. Interested in friendship - and/or... My first lover was an amputee and I would be interested to connect with someone with a similar disability. Enjoy opera, theater, travel, singing with NYC Gay Men's Chorus. Give a call if you're in the Big Apple! *Michael B. Gehl*, 95 Horatio Street #706, New York, NY 10014, telephone: (212) 255 4140.

LONG ISLAND. GWM 45, 5'2", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, moustache, eyeglasses, considered handsome and masculine, smoker, light drinker. Interests include antiques, PBS, music, swimming, dancing, long walks. I am warm, gentle, loving and race- & handicap-friendly. I prefer you to be masculine and height/weight proportionate and if possible from NY/LI area. Photo appreciated. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #765.*

NEW YORK. GWM 39, 5'6", 138 lbs, br/br, mustache & beard, mentally disabled, taking GED classes from vis ed, want to learn computer electronics. I like camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, walking the woods nude. Would like to meet friends, buddies, pen-pals. Call or write - let's get together soon. *Steven G. Nichols, POB 271, Saratoga, NY 12866, ph: (518) 581 1714.*

NEW YORK. GWM 27, 5'10", outgoing, good sense of humor, straight acting, affectionate, enjoys beaches, movies, sunsets, just relaxing by the fire, seeks GWM 18-30, disabled a plus, for friendship, relationship. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #651.*

NYC/VIRGINIA/DC. 20 year old abled college student seeks 18-35 gay or bi male for friendship. Disabled a plus. I have varying interests such as movies, museums, volley-ball, computers, partying and dancing, also I am masculine, discreet, easygoing, friendly - and open and flexible to new ideas. I live in NYC in the summer and I go to school in Virginia during the fall. *Paul, POB 3361, Charlottesville, VA 22903 or ph: (804) 243-1969* Internet: pjs5w@virginia.edu

NEW YORK. GW abled Daddy Bear, 46 yrs. old, 6', 260 lbs, greying beard and moustache, cigar-smoking biker type, long time disabled-aware activist, attracted to differences and those who appreciate them. I am looking to explore a long list of interests, including kinks and fetishes, with disabled/abled men who use their imaginations first and their bodies second in long, slow encounters to prove that the mind is the greatest sex toy. My non-sexual interests include writing, theatre,

design and photography. Write or call if you wannasee where our imaginations can take us ... *Max E. Verga, 141 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238, ph: (718) 852 1960.*

NEW YORK CITY. GWM, late 30s, C5-6 quad. Interests include theatre (the field in which I work), music (of many kinds), reading, watching tennis, going to movies, etc. Bright, aware, good sense of humor, good listener (and not a bad talker). I used to travel, but wasn't athletic/outdoorsy even in my first life. I am interested in hearing from anyone who finds this thumbnail sketch appealing/provocative and wants to know more or even maybe meet for a cuppa coffee, a Diet Coke, or a glass of wine. I take mine with a straw. I have no rules about smoking, drinking, or HIV status—I'm not your mother. Please send a phone number; I'm really lazy about typing but I love talking on the phone. *Andy Zerman, 300 E. 75th St., #15-0, New York, NY 10021*

NEW YORK. Able bodied GWM searching for disabled and abled contacts for good conversation (by phone or letter), possible meeting and sharing mutual feelings. I am 41 years old, 5'7", dark hair, blue eyes, a professional, very preppy in appearance and dress. I am hearing impaired and wear hearing aids - but they only help to make communication better! *Replies with correct postage please to* A-T #264.

OHIO. GSWM, 41 years old, 140 lbs, HIV-, non-smoker and non-drug-user, drink very little, lost my right arm at the shoulder due to a motorcycle wreck. I am a very sincere, honest and responsible person. I would like to find the same qualities in a man who would like either to have a one to one relationship with me or just to be a good friend. *Replies with correct postage please to* A-T #536.

OREGON or **SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA.** Hi! I'm Tod, a GWM 29, 6'4", overweight (working on that!) but not a slob, broad shoulders - built like a football player, abled. I have brown hair and eyes, mustache and goatee, and a lovable, hugable and slightly hairy body. Been told I'm handsome, masculine and straight in appearance and I know I have a gutsy sense of humor. I live in Portland, OR but am moving to the Bay Area in Spring '96. I enjoy new situations and challenges and learning new things. I am looking for a life-mate who I can commit to - who is physically disabled and will love and accept me as I will you. I prefer shy men who are independent but needing to share their life with someone who loves them back. I don't have any other physical expectations of you as I have learned that it's the person inside that will keep us together. I like spending time together doing simple things like shopping or visiting a museum. I enjoy the simple experience of having someone in bed beside me. I cherish physical intimacy but choose not to cheapen it with trash talk or head games. I love getting to know the real you and opening myself up in return. I am sincere, thoughtful and caring and have a positive outlook. If you

can stand all of that, please write - I will answer all replies, we'll never know what happiness we could share until you take that first step! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #698.*

PENNSYLVANIA. 23 year old GWM seeks persons with disabilities for friendship. I have brown hair and eyes, stand five feet eight inches tall, weigh 110 pounds and wear glasses. I was born with mildly severe Cerebral Palsy which affects my ability to walk, my speech (although I can be understood on the phone), and bladder function. I am ambulatory, but use an electric wheelchair for long distances. Presently I am a college student in my third year at Temple University where I am majoring in Human Resource Administration and eventually plan to attend law school. My hobbies and interests include computers, playing chess, reading, writing, world affairs, and disability-related issues. For the past three years I have been very happily involved in a long term relationship with a man who is abled and is in his forties. Please write or telephone before 10pm eastern standard time *Brian Peaceman, 352 Valley Brook Road, Apt. A-6, Ambler, PA 19002-4341, ph(215) 540 0189.*

PENNSYLVANIA. GWM, 40, sincere, warm, caring, intelligent, humorous, can be shy, others tell me I'm handsome , dark hair, beard/ 'stache, blue eyes, hairy back-butt-legs, person with a disability, power wheelchair user, HIV-, the fixed-income thing. I seek friendships, mutual support, hugs, kissing, safe times, r/fr. I enjoy computer BBS-ing, videos, music, houseplants, volunteering, hanging out on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania & in their botanical garden, and appreciating the great view from my secure 19th floor apartment. I do not smoke, don't use drugs, I'm not into pain, & I've no interest in sports. Write to: *Clark F. 3901 Market Street #1913, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3131.*

PENNSYLVANIA. Abled gay male, 32, wishes to meet disabled or abled gay male(s) for cultural events, travel, intimate luncheons, torrid steamy overnight or long weekend trips, or a long-term relationship (and preferably all of the above!). Seeking friends is a given, of course, but this 5'10", hirsute, mustached and short-bearded bear wants to meet a man with the ability to challenge me intellectually as well as sexually; a man with a strong sense of his own identity as well as an unquenchable thirst for intense, romantic, one-to-one lovemaking and a lack of fear of long-term commitment. I prefer someone in my age bracket (30 to 40-ish), but I would not turn away someone in his 20's, 40's or 50's who possesses the character traits I seek. I would also consider relocating, if the individual in question needs this as part of a commitment - all is negotiable! Are you ready for me? *Evan M. Malin, Fox Chase Station POB 24725, Philadelphia, PA 19111-0725.*

PENNSYLVANIA. I'm a black male, 38 years old, 5'10", 291lbs, I have salt & pepper receding hairline and brown eyes. I have a slight mental disability. I am seeking a life-mate who is willing to relocate or I am willing to relocate for the right person. Please write or call at any time. *Edward Harris, 1041 West 1st Street, Oil City, PA 16301-3201, ph. (814) 676 3240.*

PENNSYLVANIA. GWM 40 years old with a swimmer's build, with cerebral palsy, use a wheelchair to get around. I have my college degree in theatre. I wrote a play and it was staged at Penn State University in the main campus. Believe me - I don't let my disability get in my way. I live on my own, one hour away from Philadelphia and one hour away from New York City. My interests are the theatre, working out at the gym, dancing, going to the beach in the summer, going to see male dancers, and traveling. Believe me, I do everything. I am looking for someone to be with to enjoy life as we live it. I am also looking for disabled guys to write to me and tell me how they cope with the everyday world, and to share ideals with. And... is there any guy out there who wants to take a vacation? Please contact me if you do. I need a vacation so bad. I was thinking about going to one of the islands, just lay out on the beach and look at the view. *Bill Lasch, 1101 Seneca Street #208, Bethlehem, PA 18015.*

IN SEARCH OF ABLED LIFE MATE. Non-mainstream GWM, 50, 5'8", 145#, bl/bl, simple, quiet, honest professional, traveled performer and arts educator with very high public profile. I am discreet, masculine, caring, sensitive and daring, a risk-taker. Physical disability due to polio, use wheelchair, but not confined to it, not paralyzed. Disability does not mean dependent. If you are a 40+ vital, masculine, articulate, loving man with a sense of himself and his sexuality who understands the words *loyalty, commitment, responsibility,* and wants to share the future and a monogamous relationship with another warm and understanding man, then write to *POB 654, Emmaus, PA 18049.*

BIG WHEELS KEEP ON TURNING. Do you have dreams of having someone who is hard working, loyal, honest, caring, loving, and has no problem being monogamous? I do too! I hold within my heart the hope and dream that, somewhere out there, there is a GWM or BiM 35 to 55, who is sincerely seeking a stable, loving and caring friendship or a one-on-one relationship. I'm a GWM 42, easily passing for early 30's, 125 lbs, bk/br, with mustache. I have a smooth, boyish swimmer's build. Being half Italian and half French I'm an incurable romantic. I love candlelight dinners, movies, the theater, picnics, letting the rain fall on me, spending time out of doors camping and at the beach, and quiet times at home cuddling. I also have a passion for art and music. Now using a wheelchair, I have turned what many see as a handicap into a positive force of strength and many possibilities. So, if you are looking for a man who is real and who will be by your side

through the bad as well as the good times, then either write or call - *Stefano, 211 Shannon Street, Gaston, SC 29053-9136, ph (803) 791 1637* - and let's see what happens.

TEXAS. GWM, 45 years old, 5'6", 138 pounds, blond (balding), hazel eyes (glasses), clean-shaven with mustache, lite body hair, cute butt, HIV-. Lonely, home loving, and honest. Pleasures: lounging, body rubs, and everything sexual. Let's get together. *R.M. Witt, POB 2733, Dallas, TX 75221-2733. Phone: (214) 821-0123*

TEXAS NORTH EAST. GWM, 57, 5'10", 165#, blond hair, blue eyes, wear glasses, nice-looking, disease-free, gym-going in good shape former forrester/logger living in a small country town; I am masculine, sincere, affectionate and very sexual; I enjoy fishing, hunting, camping, gardening and more. I am seeking a one-on-one relationship with a younger man, attractive, slender/trim, clean, intelligent, disease-free, affectionate, loyal honest and very sexual, a guy who is honestly looking for an older man. My limitations are a congenital visual problem, which impairs my ability to drive in and travel to cities, but not much else; also a work-related back injury which prevents me from doing heavy lifting. I am open to the possibility of relocation. Your photo and phone # gets mine. *J. D., POB 221, Royse City, TX 75189.*

TEXAS. GWM 48, brown/hazel, 5'1", 133 lbs, HIV neg. I am looking for friendship or possible relationship. I'm handsome and fit. I have scoliosis (spine curves to right) and an underdeveloped left shoulder from old polio, also slight asthma. I'm a community college professor in Spanish. I like old rock, big band, jazz, classical music, cooking, astrology, museums, art exhibits, UFO stuff, *Unsolved Mysteries, X Files,* antiques, bookstores, conversation over tea, cuddling (a lot), playing monopoly and scrabble for blood, old black and white movies. Please, first be a drug free non-smoker, then: irreverent, sensitive, fun, fit within your ability, not afraid to try things you haven't, a polio survivor, an amputee, or even physically normal, HIV neg. Write to A-T box (photo appreciated) or call William Roberts, ph. (512) 385 8313. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #956.*

TEXAS. GWM 53, 5'8", 150#, abled, HIV-, not turned on by disability but not turned off either, especially by types I've known. High school classmate was paraplegic, fellow worker in college had cerebral palsy, father was amputee, and good friend in grad. school had to have colostomy - plus some others! I have many interests ranging from railroading to impressionist art. Penpals to relationship, whatever... *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #828.*

SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME? Let's talk first. I'm just a regular guy, missing a part. Left B/K. But with my limb and long pants on, people just don't realize there's a replacement part there. In

my mid 40's, but look 30's. (Yeah, right). No, for real! 5'11". Blue. Blond. HIV-. Don't smoke. Socially drink. Cleanshaven with light dusting of body hair. Average. (Everywhere). But my passions are deep. What are they? Music (everything but country). Movies and theater (maybe there's an escapist deep inside). Cars (sleek, fast and fun to drive). Skiing (on snow). Working out (pseudo jock stuff!). Flying (in airplanes - and it's a good thing, since I do it so much). Antiques and collectibles (furniture and porcelains... not people). My life is rich with friends, travel and experiences. What's missing is somebody to really talk with - somebody who's gay or bi and knows the difference between *A/E, B/E, B/K* and *A/K!* Somebody who shares those unique kinships. Somebody to trade stories with - *both* laughs *and* cries (laughs first!). Maybe there's a relationship there, maybe not. But finding out could really be wonderful! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #721.*

UTAH. I would like a HIV-positive penpal with whom to share experiences and feelings. Please write to *W. Garrard, POB 1796, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-1796.*

VERMONT. Disabled-aware abled mature GWM, turned on to that special gay guy who would like a safe monogamous but adventurous sexual relationship. I have a small country house and a life to share with that special, different lover who likes dogs, cats and maybe some real farm animals. I am on a search for mystical Truth, not in terms of a theological position, but as the Unity of all life. Sounds scary? Let me hear from you and let's search together and start with discovering each other, that will be exciting not scary! I am 5'11", 150#, brown hair - but very thin on top, trimmed gray beard, a few aches and pains but nothing serious. I get along happily with not much money. I work very lightly at my antiques business, and would welcome an interested guy to work with. Be any age, color, ethnicity, preferably a non-smoker. Photo appreciated if you write. *Richard Phelps, RR #1 - Box 710, East Dorset, VT 05253-9708.*

LET'S HIT THE WOODS CAMPING. GWM 31, seeks friends for fun and possible relationship. I'm 5'6", 180#, br/br, 'stache and goatee; after a badly broken leg I have a permanent limp and walk with a cane. I'm a licensed nurse's aide and very disabled-aware. You are 30's, honest, caring, HIV-, monogamous, enjoy country living, able to relocate, no drugs/bars, ability/disability unimportant. I will answer all who write (with photo if you can). *Joe, POB 283, Rutland, VT 05702-0283.*

VIRGINIA. GWM, 54, 5'8" 150#, brown/blue; diagnosis - MS (still not definite); symptoms - walking difficulty, bladder and sexual dysfunction; personal interests - history, movies, trains, gay male erotica. I plan to relocate back to Cleveland in a few years and I am especially interested in hearing from A-T subscribers in NE Ohio. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #617.*

TACOMA, WASHINGTON AREA. 67 years old, healthy man, large body, with a lot of love, care and consideration for the right person. I can be a real help to someone who needs a little TLC or whatever. Long term friendship desirable. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #704.*

SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE. I know there is a great guy out there looking for someone special! I'm *not* looking for Mr. Right Away but I am truly interested in connecting with someone who is good to himself and those that he holds dear. My last relationship was with a partner of eleven years. Three years have passed and I know I'm ready and able to date again. This GWM is 38 yo, 165 lbs, 6'2", brown hair, blue/green eyes. I have two different types of muscular dystrophy. I can't even pronounce it but I have had the disability all my life. It has provided a few challenges but nothing I can't overcome. I work in the computer field and have traveled over 12,000 miles in the last three months with my new job. What preferences do I have? GWM, 25-48, height/weight proportionate, smooth or lightly hairy, with a good sense of humor. It doesn't matter to me if you have a disability, small stature, small cock, or what type of job you have as long as you are happy with what you do. I use an electric wheelchair to get around but work out at the college, travel, theater, dining out, concerts, computers, etc. Give me a call, I would love to talk to you. *Dan, ph: (206) 323 6969.*

NORTHWEST U.S. Retired male, 6'2", 180 lbs, enjoys gardening, hiking, traveling, corresponding, and I am a railroad buff. I would like to get acquainted with others with like interests. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #749.*

PACIFIC NORTHWEST. Single WM, 5'11" tall, 180 lbs, 55 years old, abled, having car and full-time job, seeking male disabled or abled living not too distantly. As I spend time in Bremerton, Tacoma and Seattle I am hoping to hear from someone living in western Washington state, but I am also open to hearing from those in Oregon and BC Canada. Write to *Rod Carter, POB 527, Manchester, WA 98353-0527.*

WEST VIRGINIA. Abled GWM, 23, 6', 195lbs, in search of amputee or paraplegic GWM for friendship and possible long-term relationship. I am a good-looking, intelligent recent college graduate interested in adventurous travel, scuba diving and disabled sports who is searching for someone to share my life with. Must be well-adjusted, HIV negative and relatively masculine. Please send letter and mailing address along with telephone number and a photo if you have one. I will answer all responses. Also, anyone interested in attending the Paralympic Games with me in Atlanta, GA on August 16th-27th, please respond! *Alexander Jones, POB C-254, Concord College, Athens, WV 24712.*

ADS

CANADA

CANADA, TORONTO. GWM 38, abled, 5'6", well built husky stature, br/hazel, trim beard/'stache, masculine, HIV neg. With a Franciscan spirituality I enjoy most of what life has to offer: making friends, outdoor activities, travel, history, museums, cooking, dining out, quiet evenings, sunrises and sunsets, music, animals and more. I am attracted to blue-collar appearances like workboots, hi-top running shoes and Levi 501's, to long hair and to tallness, also to men with leg braces or prostheses (esp. b/e hooks) - a previous friendship with a man who is an amputee was a very positive experience which I would like to repeat. I am seeking to develop and sustain real friendships with disabled men 18-42 years who live life to its fullest potential. Perhaps you are active in disabled sports, outdoor activities; above all you possess a strong self-awareness, have a realistic approach to life and are willing to invest into a face to face friendship. Penpals ok, all replies will be promptly answered, photo (returnable) and phone appreciated. Write soon, eh? *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #316.*

CANADA. My name is Donald MacMillan. I was badly brain damaged in a truckmobile accident almost 20 years ago. I have worked hard at getting my life into order over the last 20 years and feel I am 90% there. I am lonely and would like pen pals. I'd appreciate a picture and will send one in return. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1003*

VANCOUVER, B.C. Hi! I'm a GWM interested in meeting new people, either on a friendship level or dating. (With hopes of it developing into a long term relationship with the right person.) I've been told I'm not bad to look at and appear younger than my 31 years. I'm 5' 8", 135 lbs., with brown hair and eyes. I have an invisible disability called fibromyalgia. This mainly manifests as muscle and joint pain in my legs, which can limit the amount of walking I'm able to do in a day. Symptoms can range from barely noticeable to uncomfortable. I eat well, do yoga, and work out a couple of times a week. I'm somewhat Bohemian. I like music from funk/soul and garage/house, through to Joni Mitchell, Laurie Anderson, and ambient stuff. Currently a student living in Vancouver, Canada (contemplating relocation). Previously worked in fashion and commercial photography in London, England. An industry full of stress and nastiness—don't miss it much, but do miss "The Big City" sometimes. I have access to almost free worldwide flights, and would love to visit others who are sincere, authentic, and humorful. Write me at: *Andrew Jack, 2170 Wall Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 1B5 CANADA*

ENGLAND. My name is Peter. I am German, living in London, 34 years old, tall and muscular, looking for amputees for friendship and hopefully visiting in USA or GB. Don't think your disability is a handicap. I am professional, versatile, positive thinking. I like traveling, working out, scuba diving, swimming, clubbing, movies, etc. I also welcome responses from abled members with similar interests. *Peter Leffek, 54 Newbery House, Northampton St., London N1 2HX United Kingdom*

ENGLAND. Hi there! I'm an English GWM, 40, 6'2", 160lbs, seeking friendships and exchanges and hopefully an intimate relationship. I'm polio-disabled but fully mobile and independent. I'm straight-acting, masculine, caring, loving and affectionate; also unselfish, loyal and dependable. I'm into travel, music, socializing and much more. Am relaxed, easy-going and open-minded. I live on the south coast about 2 hours from London in a wheelchair-friendly bungalow and welcome houseguests. I also speak German and French and basic Spanish. Hope to hear from you real soon. Take care now. *Paul Williams, 4 Dawn Close, Ensbury Park, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH10 4BL, England. Ph# (UK) 1202-548669.*

ENGLAND. Visually impaired gay white British male, 53, 5' 9", 210 lbs., stocky bear-type build, hairy, salt 'n pepper beard. Interests include most of the arts, painting and sketching, travel, countryside wildlife, swimming, rambling with my dog. Would love to hear from other laid back like-minded guys, your photo gets mine. Write soon! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1080*

ABLE-TOGETHER
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(We recommend box #-coded ads unless you have a Post office box address.)

The text of my ad is as follows:

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ABLE-TOGETHER is published and mailed to subscribers at the *end* of the months of January, April, July and October; A-T is also available for purchase at certain gay/progressive bookstores across the US and in the UK.

ABLE-TOGETHER caters to the needs and interests of disabled and disability-aware abled men within the bisexual/gay communities. Subscribers to A-T are encouraged to contribute letters, opinions and articles.

ABLE-TOGETHER is news: A-T has been written up in *New Mobility*, in the newsletters of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights and of the Boston Information Center for Individuals with Disabilities, as well as in local gay newspapers such as the *San Francisco Bay Area Reporter.* A-T is also politics and history and our subscribers include the World Institute on Disability in Oakland, California, the Homodok Archives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the Danish Stop-AIDS Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society in San Francisco.

ABLE-TOGETHER applies subscription, sales and donation revenues to production, advertising and outreach costs. A-T's outreach program includes sending informational materials to independent living centers and distributing flyers to the disabled students' programs and the gay and lesbian students' associations of colleges in the US and Canada; A-T advertises in US regional gay newspapers, and nationally in *New Mobility*, *Advocate Classifieds* and the *Disability Rag.* A-T welcomes suggestions from subscribers on outreach policy.

ABLE-TOGETHER full-year subscribers *only* may submit a personal contact ad for publication for as long as the subscription is active; ads may be box#-coded for privacy; changes and updates to ads are encouraged; A-T reserves the right to edit ads for length and content.

ABLE-TOGETHER has a bookstore single issue cover price of US**$5**/UK**£4**; the cost for a full year's postal subscription of four issues, inclusive of a personal contact ad listing at no additional charge, is US**$30**/UK**£24**; this is reduced to US**$15** /UK**£12** for persons with low incomes.

ABLE-TOGETHER's voice-mail telephone number is your line to us, whether you have a specific question or, by generating personal contact, just to get a better feel of what A-T is about; ***keep in touch with us on (415) 522 9091!***

ABLE-TOGETHER
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